Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of non-aligned and other countries

932. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether inaugurating the Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of non-aligned and other developing countries, at New Delhi hi January this year, India decried the attempts of developed countries to link trade with labour standards; and

(b) if so, what were the main observations and suggestions made and decisions taken at the Conference especially with regard to elimination of Child labour and improvement of condition of women through employment programmes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries held at New Delhi from 19th to 23rd January, 1995 resolved to oppose any efforts to establish linkage between international trade and enforcement of labour standards through the imposition of the social clause. The Conference also resolved, at the same time, that labour standards should be reviewed, updated and consolidated within the ILO without linkage to trade concerns, and that national level actions also should be taken to review ILO conventions, and strengthen laws and their enforcement. India is a party, to the above resolution.

(b) The Conference also resolved . to undertake programme for horizontal cooperation amongst the developing countries in the various socio-economic spheres having implications for labour and employment. It decided to give immediate priority for total and de facto elimination of child labour in hazardous employment by implementing a package of legislative and developmental measures with adequate allocation of resources. For elimination of gender discrimination it resolved that women should be given legal and administrative protection against all forms of discrimination in employment and affirmative action should be taken to enhance their participation in all economic activities.

Adoption of Social clause in conference of Labour Ministers

933. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what declaration was adopted at the five day Conference of Non-aligned and developing countries of Labour Ministers held at New Delhi in January this year, regarding the adoption of the social clause in matters of World Trade; and

(b) what was Government's stand in regard thereto?

THE MINISTTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of Non-aligned and other Developing Countries held at New Delhi from 19th to 23rd January, 1995 adopted the "Delhi Declaration" in which it was,, inter-alia, resolved to oppose efforts to establish a linkage between

international trade and enforcement *of* labour standards through the imposition of the social clause. At the same time, the resolution recognised the necessity for commitment to promote measures to improve the working and living conditions of all people and provide better levels of protection. India is also a party to this resolution.

Unemployed persons in the country

934. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of unemployed as on 31st December, 1994 according to the records maintained by the Employment Exchanges in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Employment Exchanges have become places of nepotism and corruption and are not discharging their duties objectively; and

"(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to restructure the Employment Exchanges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The total number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country, as on 31-12-1994 was .366.91 lakhs.

(b) and (c) Employment Exchanges function under the administrative control of State/U.T. Governments. Complaints of nepotism and corruption received in Government are promptly forwarded to the State/U.T. Governments for necessary action.

Action agauist loom owners for employing child labour

935. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases have been instituted against loom-owners for the illegal employment of child weavers in the country;

(b) how many raids have been conducted in the carpet belt against the exporters of carpet fori employing child labour; and

(c! the details of the action eaten thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA); (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bonded child labour in Mirzapur

936. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Kailash Satyarthi, Chirman of South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude has sent list of 2000 bonded child labour working in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh to the Prime Minister Secretariat;

(b) what aciton has been taken by Government against the law breakers; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to set free and rehabilitate such child labourers of Mirzapur?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) A communication has been received from Shri Kailash Satyarthi enclosing a list containing 784 names of alleged child labour belonging to different districts of Bihar and U. P. who are stated to be working in carpet industry. The concerned State Governments of U.P. and Bihar have been asked